

3 November 1981  
MAU-1067

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report - Austrian Bureau - October 1981

I. GENERAL

The highlight of the month was the 24-28 October visit of John [redacted] who last stopped in Vienna in March 1980. Although the director did not get to meet with the new ambassador, he did have an opportunity to talk to DCM Polansky as well as other embassy officials. [redacted] also briefed the bureau staff on developments at HQs and met with most of the FSN's at a wine and cheese party on the eve of his departure for Abidjan.

Money was again particularly topical this month following the realignment of exchange-rate parities within the European Monetary System to accomodate the change of economic policy in France. In real terms, the revaluation was expected to make the Austrian schilling worth about 5 percent more vis-a-vis the dollar. As a result of prevailing unfavorable rates, the post allowance for Austria was changed from category 10 to 15, the first upward move since last June when we slipped to 10. On an average, the new cost of living allowance translates out to about \$650 a year each for our five U.S. staff personnel.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. The bureau's production figures rose to nearly 550,000 words this month despite prolonged absences due to sickness of two of our senior monitors, [redacted]. Although every section was busier than usual, our two-man Polish team still continued its herculean efforts, this time with nearly 100,000 words. Part of this output consisted of the long-awaited Solidarity program (nearly 25,000 words), processed from the union's weekly paper SOLIDARNOSC. Polish monitors [redacted] and [redacted] were particularly gratified by a message from the BBC which went out of its way to thank us for our prompt filing of this important document.

2. Other major processing highlights this month included the well-publicized letters between Solidarity's Lech Walesa and Sandor Gaspar, the head of the Hungarian trade union; a call by Bulgaria's Todor Zhivkov for denuclearization of the Balkans; announcements by the Romanians of ways to stop the hoarding of food and to improve the supply and distribution of bread and flour; and Ceausescu's call for the removal of all missiles--Soviet as well as American--from Europe. Austria was also in the news with Chancellor Kreisky "breaking" with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat following comments made after As-Sadat's assassination. In addition, the bureau kept a special eye on Kreisky whose illness, later diagnosed as pneumonia and mental strain, forced him to cancel his trip to Cancun. The month wound to an end in dramatic style with a raid on a house in Salzburg resulting in the capture of a terrorist believed to be behind the synagogue attack in Vienna in late August and the murder of a city councilman on 1 May.

B. Communications

1. Although Autodin outages were still high this month at nearly 11 and 1/2 hours, we were considerably below the average of 19 hours for the past 3 months. During the interruptions, we filed approximately 3,000 words via London Bureau over the VCVC.

2. By mid month, we had signed a one-year contract with a four-year option with Siemens & Co. to exchange our existing telex for an upgraded model. We expect the new equipment to be installed in November. ✓

C. Lateral Services

Per a request from the ICA representative on behalf of Ambassador Cummings, the bureau made a videorecording of a local program entitled "Kunst am Campus," describing artistic/cultural developments on U.S. campuses.

D. Technical

1. Bureau Engineer [ ] met with the regional CPO technician on 14 October to discuss the problems preventing us from being included in the proposed new State primary circuit. A memo on the meeting has been forwarded to Chief/Communications and to Engineering Staff.

2. London Bureau informed us on 20 October that an order for a second Vienna/Caversham 4 kHz voice line had been placed with British Telecom International. The embassy has followed up by placing a duplicate order with the Austrian PTT.

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### III. ADMINISTRATION

#### A. Personnel

1. A promising candidate for our vacant Yugoslav position will visit the bureau from Geneva on 7 November to be interviewed and tested by the chief monitor.
2. London Bureau is now helping us in our efforts to recruit a Pole to fill our remaining slot and bring us up to a full 4-man team. Our local efforts were only partly successful, in that we could just surface one qualified candidate who could pass the security check.
3. The bureau chief had the pleasure of informing our senior Polish monitor, [ ] that he had been promoted to FSN 1/3 effective 4 October.

#### B. Buildings and Grounds

The painters invaded the bureau the last week of the month and have taken down shelves, rearranged furniture and moved monitors as we began our long overdue facelift.

#### C. Other

The bureau chief and [ ] attended a 19 October security briefing for new embassy employees; editor [ ] attended a similar briefing on the 20th.

### IV. VISITS

To the bureau:

1. Director FBIS [ ] 24-28 October
2. NFAC Balkans analyst [ ] 29 October.

FOR THE CHIEF, AUSTRIAN BUREAU

Deputy Chief  
FBIS Austrian Bureau

#### Attachments:

Production Report  
Nonstaff Personnel Report

cc: Chief, FBIS London Bureau